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Project:

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Testimony of Elizabeth Anne Hiller Valentin,
Executive Director, Project Vision Hawai'i

Honorable Council Members.

Aloha,

Project Vision Hawai'i supports the intent of BILL 13, as it allocates funding to nonprofit organizations that fill important gaps in care. It will allow Project Vision Hawai'i to provide services throughout every county of Honolulu providing better vision for Hawai'i.

Project Vision Hawai'i is a non-profit 501(c)3 public charity. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life by improving vision, preventing blindness, and advancing medical knowledge through community-based research. We focus on the under-served population of Hawai'i and the general public, providing free vision retinal eye screenings in our medically equipped Project Vision bus. Since the beginning in 2007, Project Vision has provided free screenings to nearly 30,000 participants, detecting pathology in one or both eyes for over 40% screened inside of our mobile clinics. We have 4 programs that address populations with access to care issues. We define access to care as individuals with challenges in accessibility, affordability, and appropriateness in our health care system. Our populations served include the homeless, the uninsured, immigrants and children. The funding allocated by BILL 13 would allow us to plan and execute all 4 of our programs in Honolulu City & County. Project Vision Hawai'i's "Better Vision for the Keiki" project is program started in Wai'anae and Ewa in 2012. During the first year we were able to screen over 1,200 keiki in this area. We have since screened over 9,000 children statewide working collaboratively with the Lions Club, the Learning Disabilities Association of Hawai'i, Partner's in Development, multiple Community Health Centers, the DOE, and the DOH. We intend to serve 2400 keiki with vision screenings in Honolulu City & County through this funding. Currently we are working with the Department of Health and other clinical and community stakeholders on a scientific advisory committee that is studying new technologies, and best practices for screening children for vision, hearing and other developmental disabilities as well as methods to keep data.

Through our "Better Vision for a Better Life" eyeglasses for the underprivileged project, we provide comprehensive eye screening and prescription glasses for the uninsured and underinsured individuals working with shelters like Wai'anae's Ulu Ke Kukui, Institute for Human Services, and Waikiki Health's Next Step and Care-A-Van. We intend to serve 960 homeless with this program throughout Honolulu City & County under this funding.

WE...a hui for Health is our wellness collaboration coordinated under Project Vision Hawai'i. We will provide our wellness screening events to all counties targeting populations with issues of access to health care. We project to serve 2400 people through this program.



Project Vision Hawai'i also has started a program working with community health centers and hospitals providing billable eye exams for patients in need using our mobile clinic. We have piloted this with Waikiki Health and would like to take it other communities. This is a mission aligned fee-for-service. We intend to screen 360 people through this program in Honolulu City & County.

We are working on a second fee for service that is mission to aligned that will allow Project Vision Hawai'i to lease it's vehicle to the organization Vision to Learn so they may fit and provide glasses for children. We will be piloting this program in Kalihi. In one month we should assist 500 keiki in getting a pairs of glasses.

The monies allocated by the City & County of Honolulu for the Grant in Aids under BILL 13 will allow Project Vision Hawai'i to serve all districts with our programs. Based on historical data we will have a more pronounced presence in District 1, 5, 6 and 9. We will serve over 8280 individuals throughout all counties of Honolulu with this funding. We humbly request today that you support the Grant in Aid allocation in BILL 13, so we may provide these services. If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us at the information listed below. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Annie" or "Elizabeth", written over a horizontal line.

Elizabeth "Annie" Valentin, MPH
(Annie Hiller)

Executive Director
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